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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Rumania

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German Press in Bucharest

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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- At the end of 1948, the Party Control Committee of the Communist Party in Rumania, decided to seek the collaboration of the German minority (which numbered about 900,000 in 1950). The general plan provided for the following:
 - a. The gradual detaching of the Germans from their national group, principally by taking young people from the villages and placing them in factories in the towns;
 - b. The detaching of the entire community from close adherence to its church by facilitating its members; entry into Communist groups and the Union of Working Youth (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitoresc, UTM);
 - c. The creation of class feeling against the land-owning German farmers in order to split the German community.
- 2. The German Anti-Fascist Committee was then established to carry out this plan and it, in turn, decided on the publication of a German language daily, Der Neue Weg (The New Road) which became almost obligatory reading for all Germans. By 1950, 40,000 copies of this paper were being printed. Other instruments employed by the Committee include a monthly Der Kulturelle Wegweiser (which also appears in other languages), and German-speaking areas.
- 3. The editor of <u>Der Neue Weg</u> attends a monthly meeting at the Central Committee building. At that time he receives instructions from press officers and occasionally from the Agitprop director, Iosif Chisinevschi. The usual procedure involves setting up a special theme -

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such as the need for collectivization, or the Peace Movement - for a period of several months. Aspects of this theme are discussed at the monthly meetings, at which the editor may also make his own suggestions. Articles on delicate subjects must be submitted for censorship to the Central Committee prior to publication. The rest of the material used is censored by the responsible editor himself, who is a Party activist, and also passes the normal government censorship, in galley. Approval by the government censor does not protect the editor against charges of sabotage should the material be found later undesirable by the Party. The first copies off the press are sent to the Central Committee for final approval. In some cases deletions are made on the stereotype, and in more serious cases the distribution of the paper is stopped for that day and all copies already printed are destroyed. The censors are usually persons who have attended the Party University. In due course they become editors themselves. There is no commercial advertising, and personal notices are banned as they offer a convenient method of clandestine communication.

- 4. A quota of Soviet "news" is allocated for each Rumanian paper by Sovinform, which distributes material for the press in the USSR, supplying articles complete with illustrations. Sovinform is scarcely known to the public, its material being generally credited to ARLUS. Papers send a monthly return to ARLUS, showing how much Soviet material they have printed.
- 5. On one occasion when the German paper failed to print a long speech sent by Sovinform, the editor was summoned to give an explanation. He was told that lack of space was no excuse, and that he should have left out all other material instead. The Sovinform director told the editor that he (the director) was responsible for seeing that the Soviet material was printed.
- 6. The director of Sovinform has been changed frequently. The last one known was Katchenko, a Ukrainian. His assistant, who is responsible for routine, is a Soviet, Sergei Ivanovich, who has been in Bucharest for six years.
- 7. There is a School of Journalism in Bucharest. Most of the instructors are practicing newspapermen, and the pupils are all of unexceptionable working origin. At the end of the course the best students are sent to the Party University for ideological training.

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